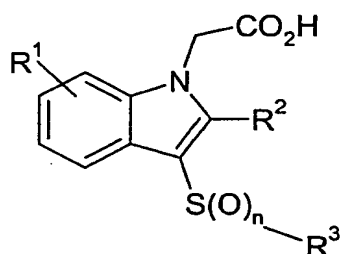


## CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(I)

in which:

10 n represents 1 or 2;

15  $R^1$  is one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, CN, nitro,  $SO_2R^4$ ,  $OR^4$ ,  $SR^4$ ,  $SOR^4$ ,  $SO_2NR^5R^6$ ,  $CONR^5R^6$ ,  $NR^5R^6$ ,  $NR^9SO_2R^4$ ,  $NR^9CO_2R^4$ ,  $NR^9COR^4$ , aryl, heteroaryl,  $C_2$ - $C_6$  alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_6$  alkynyl or  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, the latter five groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen,  $OR^7$  and  $NR^8R^9$ ,  $NR^8R^9$ ,  $S(O)_xR^7$  where x is 0, 1 or 2;

20  $R^2$  is hydrogen, halogen, CN,  $SO_2R^4$  or  $CONR^5R^6$ ,  $COR^4$  or  $C_{1-7}$ alkyl, the latter group being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms,  $OR^8$  and  $NR^5R^6$ ,  $S(O)_xR^7$  where x is 0, 1 or 2;

25  $R^3$  is aryl or a 5-7 membered aromatic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from N, S and O, each of which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, CN, nitro,  $SO_2R^4$ , OH,  $OR^4$ ,  $SR^4$ ,  $SOR^4$ ,  $SO_2NR^5R^6$ ,  $CONR^5R^6$ ,  $NR^5R^6$ ,  $NR^9SO_2R^4$ ,  $NR^9CO_2R^4$ ,  $NR^9COR^4$ ,  $C_2$ - $C_6$  alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_6$  alkynyl,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, the latter three groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms,  $OR^7$  and  $NR^8R^9$ ,  $S(O)_xR^7$  where x is 0, 1 or 2;

30  $R^4$  represents aryl, heteroaryl, or  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl, all of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, aryl, heteroaryl,  $OR^{10}$

and  $\text{NR}^{11}\text{R}^{12}\text{S}(\text{O})_x\text{R}^{13}$  (where  $x = 0, 1$  or  $2$ ),  $\text{CONR}^{14}\text{R}^{15}$ ,  $\text{NR}^{14}\text{COR}^{15}$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^{14}\text{R}^{15}$ ,  $\text{NR}^{14}\text{SO}_2\text{R}^{15}$ , CN, nitro;

$\text{R}^5$  and  $\text{R}^6$  independently represent a hydrogen atom, a  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_6$  alkyl group, an aryl, or a heteroaryl, the latter three of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, aryl,  $\text{OR}^{13}$  and  $\text{NR}^{14}\text{R}^{15}$ ,  $\text{CONR}^{14}\text{R}^{15}$ ,  $\text{NR}^{14}\text{COR}^{15}$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^{14}\text{R}^{15}$ ,  $\text{NR}^{14}\text{SO}_2\text{R}^{15}$ , CN, nitro;

or

$\text{R}^5$  and  $\text{R}^6$  together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached can form a 3-8 membered saturated heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more atoms selected from O,  $\text{S}(\text{O})_x$  where  $x$  is 0, 1 or 2,  $\text{NR}^{16}$ , and the ring itself optionally substituted by  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_3$  alkyl;

$\text{R}^7$  and  $\text{R}^{13}$  independently represent a  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_6$  alkyl group, an aryl or heteroaryl group all of which may be optionally substituted by halogen atoms;

$\text{R}^8$  represents a hydrogen atom,  $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_6$  alkyl (optionally substituted by halogen atoms, aryl or heteroaryl groups, both of which may also be optionally substituted by one or more fluorine atoms); an aryl or a heteroaryl group, which may be optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

each of  $\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{R}^{10}$ ,  $\text{R}^{11}$ ,  $\text{R}^{12}$ ,  $\text{R}^{14}$ ,  $\text{R}^{15}$ , independently represents a hydrogen atom,  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_6$  alkyl, an aryl or a heteroaryl group (all of which may be optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms); and

$\text{R}^{16}$  is hydrogen,  $\text{C}_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{C}_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{YC}_{1-4}$ alkyl, Y is O or  $\text{NR}^7$ .

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1 in which  $n$  is 2.

3. A compound according to claim 1 or 2 in which  $\text{R}^1$  is halogen, nitrile,  $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl or  $\text{SO}_2\text{R}^4$ ,  $\text{NO}_2$ ,  $\text{NR}^9\text{COR}^4$ ,  $\text{NR}^9\text{SO}_2\text{R}^4$ , aryl,  $\text{NR}^5\text{R}^6$ .

4. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3 in which the substituent(s) is/are in the 4- and/or 5- position

5. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4 in which R<sup>2</sup> is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl.

6. A compound according to claim 4 in which R<sup>3</sup> is phenyl substituted by halogen..

7. A compound according to claim 1 selected from:

3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;

5-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

6-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

10 7-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

5-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-4-cyano-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

5-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-6-cyano-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfinyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

15 3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-4-(ethylsulfonyl)-7-methoxy-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfinyl]-5-cyano-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-5-cyano-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

5-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

4-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

20 3-[(4-methoxyphenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;

3-[(3-methoxyphenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;

3-[(2-Chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;

3-[(3-Chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;

3-[(4-Cyanophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

25 3-[(2-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-Dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;

3-[(2-ethylphenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;

3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-4-nitro-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

4-(Acetylamino)-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

30 3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-4-[(methylsulfonyl)amino]-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-4-(ethylamino)-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

3-[(2,6-Dichlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid  
 3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-5-fluoro-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,  
 3-[(3-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-5-fluoro-2-methyl- 1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,  
 5-fluoro-2-methyl-3-[[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]sulfonyl]- 1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,  
 5 and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

8. A compound of formula (I) according to any one of claims 1 to 7 for use in therapy.

9. A method of treating a disease mediated by prostaglandin D2, which comprises  
 10 administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I),  
 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt as defined in claims 1 to 7.

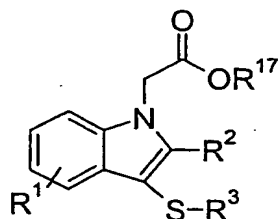
10. A method according to claim 9 where the disease is asthma or rhinitis..

11. Use of a compound of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable  
 15 salt as defined in claims 1 to 7, in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a disease  
 mediated by prostaglandin D2.

12. Use of a compound of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable  
 20 salt as defined in claims 1 to 7, in the treatment of a disease mediated by prostaglandin D2.

13. Use according to claim 11 or 12 where the disease is asthma or rhinitis.

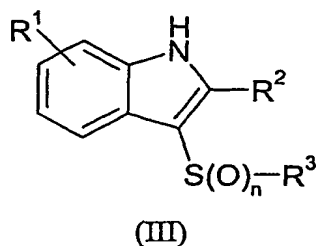
14. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) which comprises reaction  
 25 of a compound of formula (II):



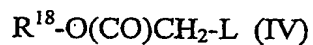
(II)

in which  $R^{17}$  is hydrogen or alkyl and  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are as defined in formula (I) or are protected derivatives thereof, or

(c) reaction of a compound of formula (III):



10 in which  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are as defined in formula (I) or are protected derivatives thereof, with a compound of formula (IV):



15 where  $R^{18}$  is an alkyl group and L is a leaving group in the presence of a base, and optionally thereafter (a) or (b) in any order:

- hydrolysing the ester group  $R^{17}$  or  $R^{18}$  to the corresponding acid
- removing any protecting group
- forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.